

# MY CHILD'S LEARNING: A PARENT RESOURCE CUSTOMIZED INFO SHEET



## English Language Arts

In Grade 7, your child will extend their understanding by finding different sources of information that help them develop their ideas. They will explore different ways that people express ideas, such as through magazine ads and brochures, and they'll discover how ideas are directed at specific audiences to capture interest. Your child will analyze how story lines progress, considering settings and characters, and they'll take notes using headings, subheadings or symbols. For more about Grade 7 English Language Arts, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Health and Life Skills

Your child will understand more about how their self-image is affected by the people they see on TV, in movies and in magazines. They will compare their own choices about physical activity, healthy eating and sleep with recommended health standards. Your child will know what makes good friendships, and they'll begin to build a personal portfolio or collection of items that show their strengths and interests. For more about Grade 7 Health and Life Skills, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Human Sexuality Education

Schools are required to offer human sexuality education in Grade 4 to Grade 9. Parents have the right to exempt their child from this instruction. Schools will provide alternative learning experiences for those students who have been exempted from human sexuality instruction.

## Mathematics

Grade 7 students

- compare and order positive fractions, decimals and whole numbers
- add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals and use percent to solve problems
- understand the relationship between fractions and decimals, including repeating decimals
- add and subtract fractions and integers
- use tables, graphs, equations and words to describe number patterns
- work with expressions and equations to solve problems

- understand the relationship between radius, diameter and circumference in a circle
- develop and apply formulas for the area of triangles, parallelograms and circles
- perform geometric constructions for lines and angles
- plot points in all four quadrants of a grid
- perform reflections, rotations and slides of 2-D shapes in all four quadrants
- express probabilities as ratios, fractions and percents

For more about Grade 7 Mathematics, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Physical Education

Your child will participate in dance, games, gymnastics, individual physical activities and activities outside of school, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. Through active and safe participation, they will understand what an active lifestyle involves and how their physical and emotional health will benefit from physical activity. Your child will also discover how positive interactions, through fair play, leadership and teamwork, make physical activity more fun and productive. For more information, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Exemptions from Physical Education

Exemptions from participation in physical education may be given for medical conditions, when a medical certificate from a doctor is presented to the principal; for religious beliefs, when a statement in writing from a parent is presented to the principal; and when access to facilities is prohibitive. When exemption is granted, activities consistent with the program outcomes should be substituted, where appropriate.

School boards are required to ensure that all students in grades 1 to 9 are physically active for a minimum of 30 minutes daily through activities organized by the school. Schools are responsible for creating and nurturing a learning environment for students that supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles.

## Science

Grade 7 Science students are introduced to geology—the kinds of materials and changes that occur on Earth's crust and

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in the interior of Earth. They apply physical science concepts like heat, temperature and forces to analyze, design and build safe and stable structures and devices that reduce heat loss. Students investigate how organisms interact within ecosystems and how these systems are affected by human activities. They also consider decisions and actions for sustainability of the environment and agricultural industries. For more about Grade 7 Science, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Social Studies

Canada has undergone some major changes during its history, and your Grade 7 child will uncover the stories behind these changes. They will become familiar with the people and events that led to Canadian Confederation and with the political, economic and social changes that took place afterward. Your child will gain an understanding of Canada's development into the multicultural, bilingual, pluralistic and diverse society we know today. For more about Grade 7 Social Studies, refer to the [program of studies](#).

## Religious Education in Separate Schools

### New Religious Education Program: *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*

In 2012, a new *Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document* was written and accepted by the Catholic Bishops of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories for Catholic education. To respond to the new Catholic Curriculum Policy Document, there is a new program and resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*, which is being developed collaboratively by Catholic educators from across Canada and Pearson Education.

The religious education program is structured around the Church liturgical year, which is based on the life of Jesus Christ. This enables students to live and express faith in an integrated way at school, at home and in the parish community. The new religious education program reflects the contents of faith expressed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* and follows the rationale and methodology of *The General Directory for Catechesis (GDC)* where the Six Tasks of Catechesis are the basis of the curriculum (GDC 85–86).

*Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ* mirrors the GDC's Six Tasks of Catechesis:

- Believing (Promoting the Knowledge of Faith)

- Celebrating (Liturgical Education)
- Living a Moral Life (Moral Formation)
- Praying (Teaching to Pray)
- Living in Communion (Education for Community Life)
- Living in Solidarity (Missionary Initiation)

The religious education program is being updated over the next several years. The new program, and its resource, *Growing in Faith; Growing in Christ*, was implemented at the Grade 1 level during the 2015–2016 school year. Grades 2 and 3 will be implemented during the 2016–2017 school year, Grade 4 in 2017–2018, grades 5 and 6 in 2018–2019, and grades 7, 8 and 9 will follow no later than 2019–2020.

### General Information about Religious Education

Religious education is an essential and integral part of the life and culture of a Catholic school. Through religious education, students are invited to develop the knowledge, beliefs, skills, values and attitudes needed to build a relationship with God and community through the person of Jesus Christ. In Catholic schools, students participate in a religious education program that is authorized by the Bishop of the local diocese.

Religious education shares the same goals and objectives set forth for all good education; that is, the growth and development of the whole person in all his or her dimensions—physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual.

### Religious education has four essential characteristics.

- It is **Trinitarian**. It recognizes God as the creator of all things who gives us Jesus. It is Jesus who reveals God to us, and in turn reveals God's Spirit, through whom we understand our faith.
- It is based on **Sacred Scripture** through which we hear the mystery of God revealed, we hear the call to be in relationship with God and each other, and we learn how to pray.
- It is based on the **life experience** of the students through which they are invited to discern signs of God in their daily lives.
- It is presented within the tradition of the **Catholic faith community** which, based on Church teachings and sacramental and liturgical life, provides students with experiences of faith, prayer, love and justice.

With an awareness of the uniqueness of each student and a

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recognition that religious development takes place through a process of stages and within a community, it is expected that program presentation will vary from place to place to meet the diverse learning and religious formation needs of all students. Some school jurisdictions have developed supplementary resources and adapted the program to better meet local needs.

The school, working with the local parish, complements parents in their role as principal educators of their children. Home and family play a vitally important role in the faith development of children. Within the family, seeds of faith are planted. Family relationships and daily experiences are major factors in shaping a child's values, attitudes and Catholic identity. Regular religious practice and the application of classroom learning to daily life are critical parts of religious formation.

Prayer is an integral part of the religious education program and of each school day since intimacy with God is the ultimate goal of catechesis. Respecting the individual differences of children and our changing human needs, prayer is experienced in many different ways: silent reflection, guided imagery, scriptural prayer, song and formal community prayer. As we enter into prayer, we give praise and thanks for God's loving presence, and call upon the Spirit to guide, nourish and empower our lives through Jesus Christ.

Teaching the sacraments occurs within the religious education program. Sacraments celebrate the presence of Christ in our lives. They are effective signs that make God's grace present to us in love, healing and the transformation of our lives. Eucharist and Reconciliation are an essential part of each child's religious formation and a necessary grounding for a mature faith. As with many basic themes, Eucharist and Reconciliation are introduced in Grade 1 but continue to be deepened and intensified in each year thereafter. Children who have not yet celebrated First Communion or First Reconciliation are always welcome to contact their parish to begin their immediate preparation for the sacraments.

The religious education program interprets for students what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about our faith in a manner appropriate to the age and development of the students. Not everything in the Catechism is incorporated because, as the Catechism itself points out, what is taught must be adapted to the "differences of culture, age, spiritual maturity, and social and ecclesial conditions among all those to whom it is addressed" (#24). Specific excerpts are quoted for the teacher at the end of each theme to help root the contents and activities of the theme in Church tradition.

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### **Grade 7 Religious Education**

Believe in Me

The themes of the Grade 7 program follow the scriptural themes of Creation, Revelation, Covenant and Redemption in Christ. Your child is invited to reflect on the first two articles of the Apostles' Creed as the summation of the faith that has been handed on to us through the Church. They will study the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) as the call to become co-creators with God in the responsible stewardship of creation. They will learn of God's call to a Christian lifestyle of creedal faith in a praying and sacramental community. Furthermore, from the study of women and men of faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit, your child is invited to become a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Opportunities are provided to highlight the Catholic liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent in the context of their scriptural roots.

Your child will explore these themes through the study of 10 units:

Unit 1: I ... We.

Unit 2: We believe in God.

Unit 3: We believe in God the Father Almighty.

Unit 4: We believe in God ... the Creator of heaven and earth.

Unit 5: We believe in Jesus Christ his only Son.

Unit 6: We believe in Jesus ... Our Lord.

Unit 7: We believe in Jesus ... who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

Unit 8: He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead.

Unit 9: On the third day he rose. He ascended into heaven.

Unit 10: He is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

For more about Grade 7 Religious Education, contact your child's teacher.